

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Groundwater is a natural resource of immeasurable value to sustaining life, public health and welfare and economic development throughout South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Groundwater is a public trust resource that is managed by the state for the benefit of all South Dakota citizens; and,

Whereas, South Dakota citizens use, on average, more than 222 million gallons of groundwater per day for beneficial uses such as domestic water supplies, irrigation, stock watering and industrial uses; and,

Whereas, Eighty percent of all public drinking water systems use groundwater for all or part of their water supply; and,

Whereas, Groundwater is extensively used by those citizens who are not serviced by a public drinking water system but who must rely on private wells for their water supply; and,

Whereas, Overuse and pollution of groundwater can constitute a menace to public health, welfare and the environment; and,

Whereas, The public policy of this state is to conserve the groundwaters of the state and to protect, maintain and improve the quality thereof for present and future generations; and,

Whereas, The Department of Environment and Natural Resources will host the 19th Annual Environmental and Groundwater Quality Conference in Pierre on March 14-15, 2007, and welcomes and encourages all citizens to attend this free event:


Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 12-16, 2007, as

GROUNDWATER AWARENESS WEEK

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fifth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.


M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State